

AT LONG LAST

July 25, 2005

We decided to stay for two days at this park at Mina Lake, South Dakota. The ranger came to our site to collect the fees and she became interested in our story and pictures of the Peter Toth statues. She said she would find out what happened to the Aberdeen statue that we couldn't find.

The next day she returned with the name of the manager of the Centennial Park, which is the fairgrounds of Aberdeen. She found that it was in storage in a garage at the fairgrounds.

We drove to the park and as luck would have it, the manager was working there. He knew exactly what we were looking for and took us to a large garage, and there it was! It was sharing the garage with an old fire engine.

He said that the statue was carved from cottonwood, and was rotting on the bottom. They cut three feet off of the bottom and still had to cut some off of the feathers to get it in the garage. He had been in touch with Peter Toth, who said he was planning to tour through the states and try to restore some of his work.

It was interesting that the fire engine that was in the garage was an old German engine. One of only three left in the world. During WWI, they were used as cannon carriages. After the war they were all destroyed.



Dave & Bonnie